

**Remarks/Arguments**

In order to more clearly define the invention, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 3, 5-8 and 10 have been canceled.

This invention relates to a multiple output conversion unit with a filter coupled between the inputs or outputs to allow a communication channel between different outputs of decoders connected to a switching device in a distribution network.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over WO 02/065780 to Antoine et al, and EP 1024613 to Watanaba et al. The Applicant submits that neither of the cited references affects the patentability of the instant Claims as amended.

The Examiner has admitted that Antoine et al does not show a filter which links inputs/outputs in a communication band. The Examiner looks to Watanaba et al for this feature. Watanaba et al shows, in Figures 1 and 2, a low pass filter (8, 9, 80, 81) in series with each signal output. However, nowhere does Watanaba et al show or suggest:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs of the selecting part to allow a communication channel”,

as specifically recited in Claim 1 as amended, or:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs between them”,

as specifically recited in Claim 9 as amended. Rather, Watanaba et al shows a low pass filter in series with each output, with no filter linking the inputs or outputs. It is therefore clear that neither Antoine et al nor Watanaba et al affect the patentability of Claims 1 and 9 as amended.

Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

Nowhere does cited US 6,088,569 to Bach et al show or suggest:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs of the selecting part to allow a communication channel”,  
as specifically recited in Claim 1 as amended, nor does Bach et al show or suggest:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs between them”,  
as specifically recited in Claim 9 as amended. It is therefore clear that Bach et al does not affect the patentability of Claims 1 or 9.

Similarly, nowhere does cited US 5,276,904 to Mutzig et al show or suggest:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs of the selecting part to allow a communication channel”,  
as specifically recited in Claim 1 as amended, nor does Mutzig et al show or suggest:

“a filter linking the inputs or outputs between them”,  
as specifically recited in Claim 9 as amended. It is therefore clear that Mutzig et al does not affect the patentability of Claims 1 or 9.

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The Applicant therefore submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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